

Appl. No. 10/627,507
Amdt. dated March 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

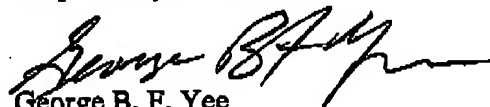
Claims 17 and 31-46 are pending. Claims 1-16 and 20-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and have been re-presented in a continuation application filed February 28, 2006.

Applicant is appreciative of the examiner's granting of a personal interview conducted February 28, 2006. Claim 31 presented herein was discussed during the interview. Claim 17 has been similarly amended.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 650-326-2422
GBFY:am
60669880 v1